

## 9. AN ALBINO CROW AT SATNA, MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA

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In end-July 2010, a local newspaper reported the sighting of a white crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos* or *Corvus splendens*) by the people of Madhavgarh area. Madhavgarh is a small town about 5 km from Satna district (24.34° N; 80.55° E) of Madhya Pradesh. Most of the villagers indulge in agricultural activity here and the area is covered with crop field and trees.

This white crow was hunted and wounded by a flock of House crows; the injured crow was scared when it was rescued by an alert wildlife lover Mohd. Islam Shah. It was kept inside a large cage. The bird at first did not look like a crow! Its body was completely white, the beak and legs were pink, and the eyes slightly reddish. It was very aggressive, which could be because of the frequent visits by strangers. The bird was photographed and its call was also recorded for future reference.

The crow was about 3 months old when rescued. Mohd. Shah had observed only a single crow trying to feed the white crow and presumed that it could be the mother. The area where it was found had a growth of vegetables, as well as some variety of trees.

Prior to this sighting three albino crows have been reported from India, i.e., from Kolkata, Kerala and Goa (www.newKerala.com: 2010 and www.nKrealtors.com: 2003), and one Leucistic crow was spotted at Mysore, India (Maramkal 2008). Albino crows have also been reported from outside India. Besides this, there are reports on sighting of albino crows by Baker (1995), Ghose and Khan (2005), Joshua (1996). However, this is the first report from Madhya Pradesh.



Fig. 1: Albino Crow sighted in Madhavgarh area, Satna, M.P.

It is known that albinos are sensitive to their environment, mainly sunlight and are prone to pathogenic attacks, hence a detailed report of this incident has been submitted to the Conservator of Forest, Satna. The Forest Department has ensured that the albino crow will soon be shifted to a safe place.

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10. FIRST AUTHENTIC RECORD OF *RHADINOPHIS PRASINUM* (BLYTH, 1854) FROM MIZORAM, NORTH-EAST INDIADAYA NAND HARIT<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup>Department of Zoology, Government Champhai College, Champhai 796 321, Mizoram, India. Email: dnharit@yahoo.co.in

Though *Rhadinophis prasinum* (Blyth, 1854) (Reptilia: Colubridae) is known to occur in north-east India from West

Bengal (Darjeeling district) to eastern Arunachal Pradesh (Deban, Changlang district), China, Myanmar, Bangladesh,

Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam (Whitaker and Captain 2008), and Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh (Das 2008), as well as Mizoram (Mathew 2007b), there are no specific locality records. Though, this species was included in their photographic guide, Ahmed *et al.* (2009) do not mention any localities.

On September 04, 2009, around 14:00 hrs while conducting a survey on tiger beetles, a road kill was observed near Mualkawi village of Champhai district of Mizoram, NE India, which was adequate to examine and identify.

**Morphometry and scalation:** Slender bodied; smooth scales; round snout; eye large with round pupil; supralabials 9 (4 to 6 touching eye); preocular 1; postoculars 2; loreal present; ventrals 199; subcaudals 110 paired; anal 1; temporals 2+1; body scalation 19:19:17.

**Coloration:** Body green in colour, supralabials and ventral side of the body lighter green than body. Skin between

scales black in colour, giving the appearance of black-edged scales.

The road-killed snake was identified as *Rhadinophis prasinum* (Blyth, 1854) (previously *Elaphe prasina*), as per Whitaker and Captain (2008), and Das (2008). Mathew (2007b) has included this species in the FAUNA OF MIZORAM, but without examining or mentioning any specimens or records. Harit and Ramanujam (2002), Mathew (2007a) and Harit (2009) have reported several snakes from the area, excluding this snake. Hence, this is the first authentic record of *Rhadinophis prasinum* (Blyth, 1854) from Mizoram and is worthy of documentation.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### 11. NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORD FOR *HEMIDACTYLUS PRASHADI* SMITH, 1935 (FAMILY: GEKKONIDAE) FROM THE KUDREMUKH FOREST COMPLEX, KARNATAKA, INDIA

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Kudremukh forest complex (KNP) is one of the less explored mountain ranges of the central Western Ghats (Vasudevan *et al.* 2006). We conducted herpetological surveys for the Karnataka Forest Department from October 2005 to February 2006 in the Kudremukh National Park, the Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary and the Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary, which together form the Kudremukh forest complex. On November 02, 2005, at 21:00 hrs, we came across an individual of *Hemidactylus*. It was seen on the wall of the Forest Department bungalow in the Bhagwati Nature Camp (820 m above msl) in the Kudremukh range of the Kudremukh National Park. The specimen was fixed in 70% ethanol and is now deposited in the Collections of the Bombay Natural History Society (Tag No. 324, BNHS No. 1749).

The specimen was identified as *H. prashadi* Smith, 1935 using standard taxonomic key (Smith 1935). The specimen matched the description completely. The coloration of this specimen was similar to Smith's description. The absence of preano-femoral pores suggests that the specimen could be a female.

As per earlier reports, *H. prashadi* was known to occur from Dorle in Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra (Giri and Bauer 2006) to Jog in North Kanara district of Karnataka (Smith 1935; Jadhav *et al.* 1991; Tikader and Sharma 1992; Sharma 2002). After the first sighting of the gecko on November 02, 2005, we have seen the gecko on multiple occasions in the three protected areas of the Kudremukh forest complex. We have seen it from as far south as the Belthangady range of the